

IN RECOGNITION OF DIXIE  
HORNING

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2018*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of the most gifted and effective leaders I have met, had the distinct honor to work with over several decades, and am proud to call a dear friend. Dixie Horning is retiring from her leadership roles as Executive Director of the University of California, San Francisco National Center of Excellence in Women's Health and Associate Chair for Finance and Administration for the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, after 20 years of service with that esteemed institution. Her transformational work at UCSF followed 30 years of transformational public service in Texarkana, Arkansas, Lafayette, Louisiana and Washington, D.C.

Dixie is a master at building communities, designing public policy, administering complex programs, and managing organizations and people.

Dixie has been honored by UCSF with two prestigious Chancellor's Awards recognizing her service above and beyond her appointed roles. The Chancellor's Award for the Advancement of Women recognized her contributions to success of many individuals through her coaching, mentoring and sponsorship of UCSF staff, faculty, high school young women and leaders of community organizations. Dixie's vital efforts to advance and improve UCSF's partnerships with its community, with an emphasis on the sharing of power in these relationships, was recognized by the Chancellor's Award for Public Service. Dixie's contributions to our network of National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health cannot be understated. She traveled across this big country of ours guiding and supporting other Centers in transforming women's health and healthcare.

There is no task imaginable Dixie couldn't tackle. To understand why she is so effective it helps to understand her life philosophy—what I like to call the Five Dixie Principles: 1. Earn leadership through presence and performance. 2. Practice active skill transfer to build sustainability: everyone has something to learn and everyone has something to teach. 3. Don't go anywhere unless invited. 4. Prepare a place at the table for all stakeholders. If a stakeholder is not yet ready to join, don't delay, begin the work but leave the seat open for future participation. And 5. Long term change requires long term presence. Those have been Dixie's ingredients for long term and sustainable success.

Dixie started her remarkable career in Texarkana, Arkansas in the early 1970s. She was hired as a gym recreation program coordinator in the Model Cities Program, an initiative of Lyndon Johnson's Great Society. She embraced the goals of developing new anti-poverty programs, achieving community integration, building better local government, engaging citizens in meaningful ways and translated them into reality. She built ten major parks, established the first domestic violence shelter, created art museums for children and

community centers for seniors. She launched six non-profits that provided day care, sports and education. She established transportation access for those who are differently abled. She served on commissions for issues as diverse as juvenile justice reform, sexually transmitted diseases, childhood education, and sports in prisons. Her success attracted more resources from private public partnerships and was noted as model program for the State by the Department of Parks and Tourism. Dixie was named by President Reagan to serve on his Advisory Council on the Outdoors.

Twenty years later, the Mayor of Lafayette, Louisiana recruited Dixie to replicate the programs she had created in Texarkana. She moved and did exactly that. She collaborated with the leaders of the Southern Mutual Help Association who were dedicated to uplifting agricultural communities. Together they created a model for community transformation and economic sustainability that focused on the removal of structural systems that reinforced poverty.

From Louisiana, Dixie moved to Washington, DC and became the Executive Director of the Gray Panthers. She worked with its founder Maggie Kuhn to eliminate age discrimination and change our view of aging and older Americans. She also worked with the Coalition that lobbied for the Violence against Women Act and renewal of Title IX.

Throughout her work across this country Dixie has been an active participant in women's history. She attended the 1st UN International Women's Conference in Mexico City in 1975 as a delegate from the rural women's caucus. She went on to serve on the planning committees for the next three UN international women's conferences in Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995. Dixie led the Beijing and Beyond taskforce. In Washington, Dixie served on National Council of Women's Organizations, including a term as its President. In 1988, Dixie was selected to carry the Torch at the Parade to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the 1913 Suffragette March for the Vote. She served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Women's History Project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor my friend Dixie Horning, an exceptional champion of social justice and fierce feminist advocate for all women and girls. While we don't exactly know what she will do in this next chapter in her life, we can be sure it will transformational and lead to a better future for us all.

RECOGNIZING  
OFFENHEISER ON HER STATE  
TITLE IN DISCUS THROW

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2018*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Emily Offenheiser, a senior from Stockton Senior High School, for earning the Class IA Illinois High School Association (IHSA) first place championship in discus throw.

Emily Offenheiser has often been recognized as a star athlete playing several sports such as basketball, softball, shotput, and discus. In 7th grade she began discus and has qualified for the state championships four times since. She has demonstrated a tremendous dedication to track and field, and in the recent state championship accomplished a personal best discus throw of 151-08, which decided her victory. Additionally, she earned second place in the Class IA IHSA shot put championship and was also named the WREX news Athlete of the Week. It takes a tremendous amount of commitment and hard work to be presented with such tremendous accolades. Emily has demonstrated leadership, admirable determination, and I am proud that she represents the Stockton community. I look forward to watching her advance in her athletic career as she begins her college education.

Mr. Speaker, it is once again my honor to formally congratulate Emily Offenheiser on winning gold, and the rest of Illinois joins me in wishing her great success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. LISA  
THOMAS

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2018*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Lisa Thomas, the deputy director at Child Development Resources (CDR) and community activist who has positively impacted the lives of many children during her tenure.

Mrs. Thomas began her career interning at CDR in 1978 while pursuing a psychology degree from the College of William and Mary. After graduating with a master's degree in social work, Thomas joined CDR full-time in 1986. During her time at CDR, Thomas participated in a variety of the organizations missions including serving as the Interim Executive Director. In 1998, Thomas was appointed Deputy Director and Head of Children's Services. In this role, Thomas oversaw all the services CDR provided to its families and youth clients. Thomas worked with state and local coalitions to provide support for early childhood services and served on my First District Education Advisory Council. Thomas was crucial in evolving CDR from a focus on children with disabilities into a broader early childhood development center.

Thomas also worked with various nonprofit organizations including the Hope Family Village, which provides support to caregivers of children with mental health issues, and served as the president of the Historic Triangle Safe Kids Coalitions. Thomas also worked with the One Child Center for Autism where she developed a program to support over 100 children a month in the Williamsburg area and served as a mentor to many children through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Mrs. Thomas for her leadership and selfless devotion to the children of our community.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER  
STEINKAMP

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2018*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Steinkamp. Christopher is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 288, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Christopher has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. JORGE RAMIREZ

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2018*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jorge Ramirez on the occasion of his retirement as president of the Chicago Federation of Labor. Jorge's reputation as an esteemed and extremely effective leader is well-deserved after 8 years as president and 12 years on the board of the CFL. He fought for and succeeded in making life better for hundreds of thousands of workers and their families.

Jorge Ramirez is the son of Mexican immigrants who grew up on the Southwest Side of Chicago near Midway Airport. His father was a meat packer in Chicago's Back of Yards neighborhood during the 1960s, working long hours for limited pay and with limited rights. Eventually his father and fellow workers formed a union, knowing that they were stronger together than they were alone. Jorge continued this tradition and found his own way into the industry, first joining the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union Local 1546 in 1988 where he served as Executive Director.

Since his election as the first Latino President of the Chicago Federation of Labor in 2010, Jorge Ramirez worked closely with stakeholders and cultivated a mutual respect with them, avoiding layoffs, improving health insurance for union workers, and stabilizing Chicago's pension funds. He was critical in ushering in a higher minimum wage for the city starting in 2019, guaranteeing a much better standard of living for so many workers. Jorge's work was also crucial in establishing a new five-year contract between the city of Chicago and the Coalition of Unionized Public Employees. That agreement alone benefited

approximately 20% of the city's employees, including motor truck drivers, plumbers, laborers, and members of the building trades. Most recently, he led the charge for an \$8.5 billion O'Hare Airport expansion plan—an effort that will both modernize one of Chicago's aviation hubs and create over 60,000 jobs.

In addition to his accomplishments with the Chicago Federation of Labor, Jorge is an active community leader, as well as a devoted husband and father. His roles have included positions with the Cook County Health and Hospitals System Board of Directors, Chicago Infrastructure Trust, the Cook County President's Council of Economic Advisors, and Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Philanthropically, he has donated his time to the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, and the Archdiocese of Chicago Office for Immigrant Affairs. All the while, Jorge and his wife, Catrina, have raised four amazing sons for whom he bakes as a hobby; his specialty being cheesecake.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Jorge Ramirez. His resilience and commitment have helped countless people improve their lives and the lives of their families. I congratulate him on his accomplishments, thank him for his service, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ELSIE EHRENS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Elsie Ehrens of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Elsie celebrated her birthday on May 19, 2018.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Elsie's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Elsie has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-five Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Elsie in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Elsie on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2018*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 15, 2018 I missed the following votes due to needing to attend to a close family member in the hospital.

For Roll Call Vote 267, the amendment offered by Congressman THORNBERRY, I would have voted "yes."

For Roll Call Vote 268, final passage of the Stop the Importation and Trafficking of Synthetic Analogues Act, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING GEORGE MATTHEW  
COCKERTON

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George Matthew Cockerton, a veteran school administrator, who is retiring after serving twenty-seven years in the Kelseyville Unified School District.

Mr. Cockerton was born in Oakland, CA, and has two adult children, Cori and Ryan. He attended California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo and California State University, East Bay where he received his Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology and his teaching credential. He also earned a Master's degree in Education and an Administrative Credential from the University of San Francisco and received a Tier II Clear Administrative Credential from National University.

Mr. Cockerton began his career in education as a Physical Education teacher, Athletic Director and Coach in 1985. In 1991, he became the Vice Principal and Athletic Director of Kelseyville High School. Mr. Cockerton was the Principal of Mountain Vista Middle School from 1996 to 1997. He has been Principal of Kelseyville High School since 1997. He is a member of the California Association of Teachers and the Association of California School Administrators. He was also a member of the Coastal Mountain Conference, a local high school sports league, for twenty-seven years and served as president for two years.

Mr. Cockerton has been active in our community. He is a long time coach for Westshore Little League Baseball and has served on their board. He is also a coach for Westshore Youth Football, where he has been the President of the organization.

Mr. Speaker, George Matthew Cockerton has served his community honorably as a school administrator and coach. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

CELEBRATING MARDELL URISH'S  
93RD BIRTHDAY

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 20, 2018*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mardell Urish, who in her 93 years on earth, has lived an inspiring life as one of the nurses in the Cadet Corps in World War II.

Ms. Urish raised a farm family of six with the help of her beloved husband, Richard. Throughout her life, she has run two assisted living facility businesses, and still runs one today. Her dedication to ensuring that the elderly have a home has undoubtedly enriched